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Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 00282 061329Z
ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-06 AID-05 MED-03 EUR-12
PRS-01 PA-02 USIA-15 IO-13 ARA-10 DIWY-01 /085 W
----------061339Z 091579 /46
R 061245Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 445

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 0282

PASS: 1. DHEW/PHS/OIH, NIH-FIC, NICHD-DR. CORFMAN
2. OES/EP/PA - AMBASSADOR GREEN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TBIO SPOP SWEL TPHY IN
SUBJECT: CONTRACEPTIVE VACCINE BEING CLINICALLY TESTED IN SIX
COUNTRIES

REF: 76 NEW DELHI 13067

SUMMARY:

CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTER (IDRC)
WILL PROVIDE DOLS1.5 MILLION TO SCIENTISTS IN INDIA AND FIVE OTHER
COUNTRIES FOR TESTING AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF AN EXPERIMENTAL
CONTRACEPTIVE VACCINE DEVELOPED BY SCIENTISTS AT THE ALL INDIA
INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES IN NEW DELHI. THE PRINCIPLE AIM OF
THE TESTS IS TO ESTABLISH BOTH SAFETY AND EFFECTIVENESS
OF THE NEW VACCINE BY THE END OF 1978. INDIAN SCIENTISTS FEEL THAT A
VACCINE OF THIS TYPE IS THE ONLY EFFECTIVE
MEANS OF CONTROLLING FERTILITY OVER THE LONG RUN IN DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES SINCE IT IS EASY TO REGULATE AND GIVES PEOPLE A CHOICE.
ENS AUMMARY.

1. THE PRIME MINISTER IN HER INAUGURAL ADDRESS TO THE INDIAN
SCIENCE CONGRESS ASSOCIATION THIS WEEK INDICATED THAT INDIA'S
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SCIENTISTS SHOULD UNITE IN COOPERATION TO DEVELOP SCIENTIFIC
MEANS OF POPULATION CONTROL.

2. AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF THIS TYPE OF COOPERATION IS THE WORK
BEING DONE BY INDIA AND FIVE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT
AND TESTING OF AN EXPERIMENTAL CONTRACEPTIVE VACCINE. CANADA'S
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTER (IDRC) IS PROVIDING

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DOLS1.5 MILLION TO SCIENTISTS IN
INDIA AND THE FIVE OTHER COUNTRIES TO FURTHER DEVELOP AND TEST THIS
VACCINE. THE CONTRACEPTIVE VACCINE WAS ORIGINALLY DEVELOPED BY
DR. G P TALWAR, PROFESSOR AND HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BIO-
CHEMISTRY, AND HIS ASSOCIATES AT THE ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL
SCIENCES IN NEW DELHI. ACCORDING TO TALWAR, IN
ADDITION TO FAMILY PLANNING THE VACCINE MAY HAVE AN
APPLICATION TO THE TREATMENT OF CANCER. TALWAR SAID THE CLINICAL
TESTS WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN SIX COUNTRIES - BRAZIL, CHILE, THE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, FINLAND, SWEDEN AND INDIA - UNDER THE
AUSPICES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON CONTRACEPTIVE RESEARCH
AND WILL BE DIRECTED BY TALWAR.

3. THE HCG VACCINE AS IT IS KNOWN ACTS AGAINST THE FEMALE
HORMONE CALLED HUMAN CHORIONIC GONADOTROPHIN (HCG) NEUTRALIZING IT
AND THUS PREVENTING THE COMPLETION OF THE FERTILE CYCLE THAT IS
ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESSFUL PREGNANCY.

TALWAR SAID THAT THE PRIMARY AIM OF THE PRESENT PROJECT FUNDED
PARTLY BY THE CANADIAN GRANT IS TO ESTABLISH BOTH THE SAFETY AND
EFFECTIVENESS OF THE HCG VACCINE.
EXTENSIVE TESTS OF THE VACCINE HAVE BEEN CARRIED
OUTON ANIMALS. IN ADDITION, PHARMACOLOGY TESTS HAVE BEEN CARRIED
OUT ON FOUR WOMEN VOLUNTEERS WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY UNDERGONE VOLUNTARY
STERILIZATION WITH POSITIVE INITIAL RESULTS. NOW MORE DETAILED
PHARMACOLOGY TESTS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THE SIX COUNTRIES ON HUMAN
VOLUNTEERS PROVEN FERTILE. THE TOTAL PROJECT EXTENDS OVER
SIX YEARS BUT IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE VACCINE
AS A CONTRACEPTIVE AGENT CAN BE SHOWN BY THE END OF 1978.
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4. THE IDRC GRANT SPECIFIES THAT WHILE THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS
TO DEVELOP THE HCG VACCINE AS A CONTRACEPTIVE AGENT, THE IMPLICATIONS
OF THE APPROACH GO FAR BEYOND CONTRACEPTIVE TECHNOLOGY.
CONCENTRATED STUDIES WILL ALSO BE CARRIED OUT ON OTHER FEASIBLE
TOPICS SUCH AS TREATMENT OF BREAST CANCER, CHORIOCARCINOMA AND
CHORIOTUMOURS IN WOMEN.

5. TALWAR INDICATED THAT A VACCINE OF THIS TYPE IS THE ONLY
EFFECTIVE MEANS OF CONTROLLING FERTILITY. ALL OF THE ORAL CON-
TRACEPTIVES, IMPLANTS AND OTHER INJECTABLES STILL HAVE THE PROBLEM
OF STEROIDS AND SERIOUS HUMAN RISK FACTORS THAT HAVE MADE INDIAN
WOMEN RELUCTANT TO USE THEM. TALWAR FEELS THAT THE USE OF ORALS
WORLDWIDE WILL DECLINE AND WILL BE EVENTUALLY REPLACED BY A SAFER,
EASIER ALTERNATIVE SUCH AS A VACCINE.

6. THERE ARE STILL A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS BEING POSED BY SCIENTISTS
WHO ARE DUBIOUS ABOUT HUMAN TESTS AT THIS EARLY DATE. FOR EXAMPLE,
THEY ARE ASKING HOW MUCH ANTIBODY IS MADE, HOW LONG IT WILL LAST,

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WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO IT WITH THE BEGINNING OF PREGNANCY, HOW WILL IT REACT WITH OTHER HORMONES AND HOW LONG IT WILL BE NEEDED TO ACTUALLY PREVENT PREGNANCY.

7. TALWAR IS OF THE OPINION THAT ALL OF THE LABORATORY WORK THAT CAN BE DONE HAS BEEN DONE AND THE ONLY WAY TO EFFECTIVELY TEST THE VACCINE NOW IS HUMAN CLINICAL TRAILS ON A WIDE BASIS. HE EMPHASIZES THE TESTS WILL BE CARRIED OUT WITH CAUTION AND COMPLETE CONTROL.SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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TAGS: TBIO, SPOP, SWEL, TPHY, IN, CA
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